

HCS HB 519 -- ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

SPONSOR: Vescovo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 9 to 2. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill requires that, within three days of being placed on administrative leave as defined in the bill, a state employee must be given a written explanation of the reason for the placement.

The bill also provides that if a state employee is placed on administrative leave for more than 30 days, the state employer must suspend the employee's pay or charge any accrued annual or sick leave, if permissible.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the public is angry that people get paid to be in trouble. Moreover, there are thousands of state employees on paid leave for misconduct.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Vescovo.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill will take away state managers' flexibility in disciplining employees. Additionally, there are legal due process concerns with the bill.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Corrections Officers Association; Highway and Transportation Employees Association; and Missouri School Boards Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say Missouri's merit system requires employees who are suspended without pay to be terminated after five days.

Testifying on the bill were Bob Bax, Missouri Department of Mental Health; and the Office of Administration.